

SOCIAL STUDIES 1001 ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

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THE FALL OF MAN

Adam did not obey the law he was given. Eve, Adam's wife, was deceived by the serpent (who was indwelt by Satan) and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam ate of the fruit knowingly and willingly. Man sinned, and this sin resulted in both spiritual and physical death. The whole story is told in Genesis, Chapter 3.

From the perspective of this study, the results of the Fall are more important than the Fall itself. Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden. They now faced a world of scarce resources where they had to work hard for a living. They had to till the ground and to care for herds and flocks. Food no longer came easily. Man was still under the cultural mandate to dominate the earth, yet he had lost the capacity to dominate. This capacity would have to be regained through human creativity and the expenditure of huge amounts of human energy. It is still being done. In the struggle for dominion of the earth, civilization develops. This struggle begins with the effort to survive, but man is too ingenious to leave it at that point. To survive more efficiently, men divide their labor and specialize. This division of labor can be seen in the first family: Cain became a farmer and tilled the soil; Abel was a shepherd and cared for animals. The ultimate result of this specialization is trade. Trade leads to towns and cities, and these towns and cities give rise to civilization. The more gifted agriculturalists and

artisans are able to support rulers, poets, scholars, lawyers, and artists.

Civilization seems to have first developed among Cain's descendants. After he murdered Abel, Cain was condemned to wander the earth, alone, separated from his family. He is said to have "builded a city" (Genesis 4:17), but he was still condemned to a life of wandering. The city he built was probably a fort or walled village designed for protection. Even so, it marked the beginning of town life.

Cain's descendants were nomadic herdsmen, musicians, and finally workmen in brass and iron. They apparently devoted more to worldly pursuits than the descendants of Adam through Seth did. Adam probably had other sons, and he definitely had daughters (cf. Genesis 5:4).

Seth's line is recorded because it is the line of the seed of the woman, through which the Messiah would ultimately come. Seth's descendants were probably more agricultural than were Cain's. Cain himself had been a farmer, but God said He would no longer bless him in that way (cf. Genesis 4:12). Seth and his line may have carried on the family tradition. Aside from this scanty information, not much is known about the extent of civilization before the Flood. Possibly it was quite extensive. The Flood itself was so destructive that the records of **antediluvian** civilization, archaeological or historical, were probably destroyed. That the world had become extremely wicked is the testimony of Scripture.



Write the letter for the correct answer on each line.

- 1.28 After the Fall, Adam and Eve faced a world of _____ resources.
a. abundant b. free c. scarce d. ruined
- 1.29 After the Fall, man was still under the cultural _____.
a. mandate b. challenge c. birthright d. promise
- 1.30 After the Fall, man had lost the _____ to dominate the earth.
a. stamina b. capacity c. effort d. desire
- 1.31 To regain his capacity, man has to expend huge amounts of human _____.
a. energy b. freedom c. thyroid d. modules
- 1.32 _____ came through the descendants of Seth.
a. The commandments b. World peace c. The Fall d. The Messiah
- 1.33 In the struggle for _____, civilization develops.
a. dominion b. power c. creativity d. wealth



Complete these activities.

- 1.34 Briefly explain the specialization that existed between Cain and Abel.

- 1.35 What is the ultimate result of specialization? _____

- 1.36 Among whose descendants did civilization first develop? _____

- 1.37 Name three activities of Cain's descendants.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

- 1.38 Why are no more records available about life before the Flood? _____

THE FLOOD FROM GOD

Several ancient records testify to a great flood. Significantly, the *Sumerian King List* from ancient Mesopotamia (the area most secular historians consider the cradle of civilization), preserves one of the oldest oral traditions of the Flood. This account has several similarities to the account in Genesis, including that of a man named Ziusudra who received special revelation concerning what was coming and was saved by riding out the flood in a huge boat. The Sumerian account differs from the Hebrew Scriptures in its heathen theology and consequent idolatrous nature. In it, cities are founded by local deities, and a heathen goddess mourns over the impending crisis.

The Babylonians had another account. It is found in the *Gilgamesh Epic* (possibly dating from 669 to 626 B.C., but based upon even older documents). In *Gilgamesh* more detail is found about the Flood than in the Sumerian records. The preservation of the animals is recorded, as well as the preparation of the boat, how it was pitched within and without. The same heathen quality is found here, however, as in the Sumerian document. Many warring gods are said to have been responsible for the catastrophe.

The Biblical account is found in Genesis, Chapters 6 through 10. In Genesis 6:1 through 7, God's reasons for sending a flood are given. The only one that is fully clear to us is found in verse 5: "... the wickedness of man was great in the earth." That man was wicked is undebated.

The information in verses 1 through 4 is

variously interpreted. Bible students differ as to who the "sons of God" who married "the daughters of men" were. Some feel they were fallen angels, while others see them as men of the godly Sethite line who intermarried with ungodly Cainites.

Those who hold the angel hypothesis feel that Job 38:6 and 7 and Jude verse 6 relate to Genesis 6. They feel that fallen angels cohabitated with human beings. Could the ancient mythical superheroes, such as Hercules, have a base in the "giants" or "mighty men" who were the **ontogeny** of these parents, they wonder.

The second view seems to be more in line with the whole message of the Bible. Christians who hold it see the Flood as a judgment of God on the earth at a time when it had become so utterly corrupt that only one godly family remained. The godly line of Seth had so intermarried with the ungodly line of Cain that godly influence was almost extinguished. In both Testaments God repeatedly forbids His people to intermarry with the unbelievers around them. I Corinthians 7:39 specifies that the most important relationship for human society must be "only in the Lord." To violate this always destroys godliness; it does not spread Christian influences.

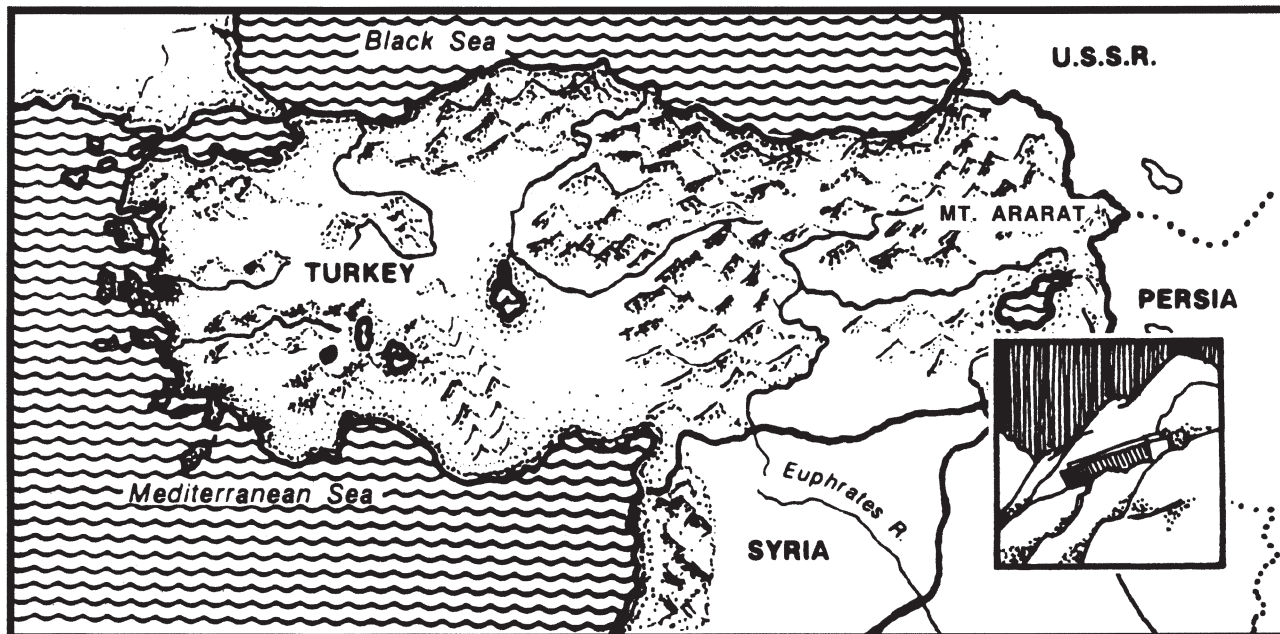
Those who choose the religious/heathen intermarriage view fault the angel theory as being unscriptural in having heavenly beings cohabitate with physical human beings. From Mark 12:25 they would conclude that angels do not marry. Thus the angel hypothesis would appear less likely and less Scriptural than the godly/ungodly

intermarriage view.

But to continue, a flood occurred. Although some modern scholars hold that the Flood was a local phenomenon, the Bible clearly teaches that it was universal; that is, that it covered the whole earth. The evil of those days was enough for God to destroy everything (Genesis 6:17)

that had the "breath of life." Only one human family was spared. The waters were high enough to cover the mountains of Ararat in Turkey, some of the highest in the world. On Ararat the ark came to rest, and many scholars and explorers believe it is still there.

The importance of Noah and his family in the



Map 1: Mount Ararat and Noah's Ark

Flood account stems from the picture of salvation that they portray. The ark is a type of Christ, the Flood is a picture of final judgment, and those in the ark are a picture of believers in Christ. Accounts also stem from their place in human history. Through Noah and his family civilization continued on the earth.

Whatever civilization existed before the Flood, its only survivors were Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives. They had brought with them into the ark seven of every clean beast and two of every unclean beast. Possibly the odd clean beast was for sacrificial purposes, and also perhaps for food. God gave Noah a covenant as well as a renewed mandate in Genesis 8:22 through 9:11:

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of

the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood;

neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

In the preceding Scripture God first determined the cycle of seasons with which we are familiar. Seedtime (spring), harvest (fall), winter, and summer shall continue as long as the earth remains (8:22). The cycle of seedtime and harvest is necessary for civilization to develop because it is the foundation for agriculture. The ability of man to provide food for himself efficiently is a prerequisite for cultural development.

In Genesis 9:1 through 7, is a restatement of the mandate given to Adam. Noah and his sons are to be fruitful and multiply; to have dominion over the beasts, birds, and fish; and to have the right to eat animals and plants. Most significant is the prohibition of murder and the establishment of the death penalty. If a man kills another man, he must forfeit his own life.

The killing of a man derives its seriousness from the fact (Genesis 9:6) that "in the image of God made he man." Many theologians regard

these verses as the source of human government upon the earth. At last, man was given responsibility for governing himself. Previously government had been by means of conscience or directly by God. How much governing was done by family or clan leaders is not known. In Cain's case, God Himself meted out the penalty, and Cain did not receive the death penalty. In Genesis 9:8 through 11, God made a covenant with Noah and his family as well as with the birds and beasts that were in the ark. This promise was never again to flood the whole earth. The sign of this covenant is the rainbow, and it is a "perpetual and everlasting" covenant.

The establishment of regular seasons (which probably included rainfall for the first time except for the Flood) and human government set the stage for the development of postdiluvian civilization. A **cyclical** climate allowed the fullest agricultural development, and human government allowed the development of political institutions.



Answer these questions.

- 1.39 How does the Sumerian account of the Flood differ from that in Genesis? _____
- 1.40 What is the name of the Babylonian account of the Flood? _____
- 1.41 What are two similarities between the Babylonian and Genesis Flood accounts? _____
- 1.42 Why did God send the Flood according to Genesis 6:5? _____
- 1.43 What was the result of the intermarriage of the godly Sethites to the evil Cainites? _____
- 1.44 How can the view that the Flood was universal be defended? _____
- 1.45 What spiritual picture does the Flood scenario portray? _____
- 1.46 The ark is considered to be a type of whom? _____
- 1.47 Why are Noah and his family so important to human history? _____



Answer true or false.

- 1.48 _____ Everyone upon the earth may trace his ancestry to Noah.
- 1.49 _____ God established the four seasons after the Flood.

- 1.50 _____ Human government began when the death penalty was established.
- 1.51 _____ God has forbidden man ever to use the death penalty.
- 1.52 _____ The ark was the sign of the Noahic Covenant.
- 1.53 _____ The four seasons and human government set the stage for the development of postdiluvian civilization.

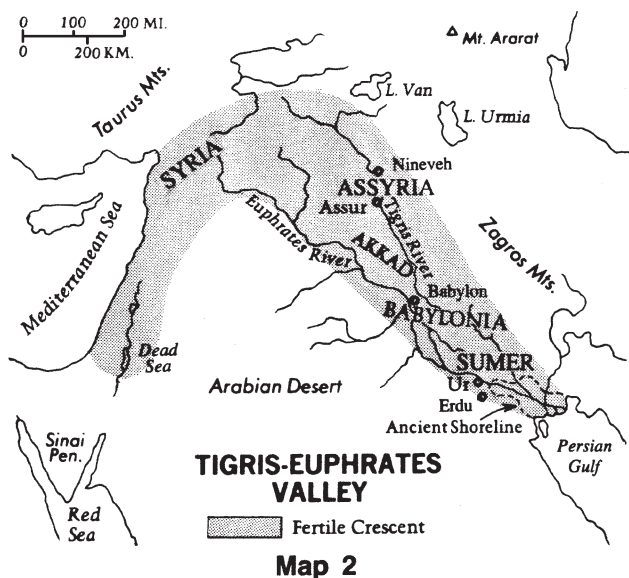
THE ORIGIN OF CIVILIZATION

The fertile area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is believed to be the cradle of civilization. There man learned the cooperation necessary to develop the rich, yet swampy, farmland. Archaeologists in recent years have found the remnants of cities in that ancient area, once known as Mesopotamia, or Babylon.

Location. Most authorities agree that the cradle of civilization was the alluvial plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. That

area, part of the Fertile Crescent (a rich, crescent-shaped area that stretches from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea) contained some of the richest farmland in the world; yet it was so swampy that much cooperation was necessary to cultivate it. That need for cooperation brought the inhabitants together and caused them to organize themselves as a society. Mesopotamia (also known as Babylon) was the name of the whole region, but the delta region near the Persian Gulf was called Sumer.

Historians believe that the inhabitants of this area came from the mountains east of the Tigris. Bible believers would agree that, in fact, they came from Ararat. Around 3,000 B.C. cities first arose in Sumer. Those cities were built by Nimrod, called the "mighty hunter." They were called Babel, Erech, Accad (hence the Akkadian language), and Calneh. Sumer was the location of Biblical Shinar. Among archaeological findings in these areas are ziggurats, or temple towers. These ziggurats are reminiscent of the Biblical Tower of Babel. Actually, Erech was in Sumer proper and served as the ancient capital. Babel and Accad were in the region north of Sumer known as Akkad. The cities were really independent city-states. They worshiped local gods, and commerce was regulated by priests.



Write the letter for the correct answer on each line.

- 1.54 According to most historians, the cradle of civilization was in _____.
 a. Egypt b. Syria c. Turkey d. Mesopotamia
- 1.55 To cultivate this area, _____ was needed.
 a. patience b. cooperation c. a tool d. a cow
- 1.56 The area that stretches from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea containing some of the richest farmland in the world, is called the _____.
 a. Fertile Crescent b. ziggurat c. Nile d. Akkad
- 1.57 Cities first arose in Sumer around _____ B.C.
 a. 500 b. 1000 c. 4004 d. 3000
- 1.58 A ziggurat is a _____.
 a. rich farmland b. temple tower c. ancient capital d. workman